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## The Inkwell

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# the inkwell

Published at the campus of Armstrong State College -- Savannah, Georgia

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## Congress to Cut \$20 Billion in Student Aid

### *Contract with America Includes Reduced Investment in the Future*

contributed by:

**Michael Walker**

One of Armstrong's younger students recently informed me that the *Inkwell* contains too many articles about politics. She went on to say that America is populated by an ever-increasing number of young people who don't care about politics. I don't know if she is correct about that or not. I do know that there is one particular political event that should be of great concern to her and all college students, whether they typically care about politics or not.

The Republican Party, in an effort to secure control both Houses of Congress, originated a "Contract with America." In it, several planks of a conservative platform were established, including promises to pass a balanced budget amendment, enact a middle-class tax cut, strengthen crime prevention legislation, and effect broadly-based spending reductions. The "Contract" plan worked; the Republicans control Congress for the first time since 1952.

The tenets of the contract at first glance may be appealing, specifically the notion of spending cuts. Students should know, however, that some of the cuts may come at their expense. Republican leader Newt Gingrich recently announced that his majority party plans to cut \$20 billion in federal student financial aid over the next five years. (Total federal spending on student aid during 1993-94 was \$31 billion.)

The cuts would result in the elimination of Perkins Loans, federally funded student worker programs, and federal subsidization of student loans. That terminology basically means that for millions of students, the cost of going to college could increase by as much as 50%. Indeed, the cuts would result in the largest increase in the cost of going to college in the nation's history.

### **Call 1-800-574-4AID to Protest the Proposed Spending Cuts**

Armstrong students would be hit hard by the cuts. If enacted, approximately 2,200 of ASC's 5,600 students would feel the pinch. In particular, students who receive federally subsidized loans would be bound to pay interest (at rates as high as 8.4%) on their student loans. Simply put, this means that during the ten years each student has to payoff their loans, thousands of dollars in interest will be added to the principle of the loan.

Students and student interest groups around the country have quickly organized rallies against the proposed cuts. These groups have been particularly effective in cities where members of the House Budget Committee (who will finalize the spending-cuts proposal) have held special hearings regarding the spending cuts.

Closest to home was the hearing held on Saturday, February 4 at Columbia,

S.C. There, approximately 250 students gathered to protest the proposed cuts. Protests were not heard, however. Hearing organizers spread the word early that legislators would not listen to pleas against the cuts. Testimonies would only be taken from those who would recommend specific cuts.

As a result, one student interest group, The Alliance to Save Student Aid, has established a way for opponents of the cuts to register their complaints. A phone bank has been put into place and is staffed by volunteers who will pass on comments to each caller's representative in Congress. The number is 1-800-574-4AID (4234). All students are urged to call the number and protest the cuts.

Opposing spending cuts may not be en vogue, but where America's future is concerned, reducing investments is not in our long-term interests. An educated populace is the key to becoming a strong people. Reducing education spending, by way of limiting student financial aid, exemplifies the short-term thinking of a Congress of politicians concerned more with biennial elections than the middle and lower class students who can hardly afford the costs of higher education.

It is time for the youngest voters in the country to pay attention to politics. If we miss this opportunity to defend our interests, we will be giving a further OK to the group of lawmakers who presently lead the nation with little regard for a future of which they will not be a part.

## ASC to Switch to Semester System by '98

contributed by:

**Joe McKenzie**

Is Armstrong going to switch to the semester system? If so, when and how will credited hours be affected? These questions and many more stem from recent talk about the University System Chancellor's initiative to put Georgia on a semester system. Although the Board of Regents has yet to decree any definite decision, ASC Vice President Frank Butler suggests that we can be fairly certain the switch will be made: "The Chancellor has instructed us to bring it to a head." Butler insisted, though, that all student and faculty concerns will be thoroughly considered before a final decision is made. The tentative date for the possible switch has been slated for fall '97 or winter '98.

There are several reasons for the changes, and many faculty members have

expressed both positive and negative inclinations, as a result. Butler said that a majority of Armstrong's faculty believes a semester system would benefit the student body. The system would provide students with more time to digest material because of the longer terms. A semester typically spans fifteen or more weeks, compared to a quarter's ten weeks. Instructors should prefer semesters, which allow for the time to offer more intense scholarship, placing greater responsibility on the shoulders of students and increasing the opportunity for those students to learn. Butler conceded that there exists no quantitative proof that favors semester arrangements, but contended that the schools in the system that have already made the switch are pleased with results.

Perhaps the most important advantage to the system, according to Butler, is that students would be more quickly prepared for

the job market; graduate requirements would include 120 semester hours as opposed to our current requirement of 191+ quarter hours. Credit hours would be deviated in 3-point increments rather than 5.

One of the initially predicted disadvantages of the semester system regards those instructors who are not familiar with semesters and who may have trouble making necessary adjustments to lecture formats, assignment scheduling, and advisement practices. Another disadvantage concerns the nontraditional students who would be forced into making a more long-term commitment to education.

One thing to consider: if we join the majority of institutions in the region by switching to the semester system, our recesses would coincide with those of many of our friends, and we might actually enjoy a real spring break!



# Armstrong Students: Ill-Advised ?

contributed by:

**Beverly English**

When I was in the tour industry my boss used to say, "Treat everyone as if they are stupid, but be nice about it." Basically what she was trying to say is that people often have unrealistic expectations. They have read the glossy magazines, thumbed through the tabloids, and painted a picture of how things are supposed to be without experiencing how things really are.

College students, as well as tourists, often are tired and confused by unfamiliar policies. They don't know the local ins and outs, like where to go and what to do, who to see or what to stay away from. Their brains are not functioning fully and it would seem as if they welcome being told exactly what to do and how to do it, rather than exhaust themselves further trying to figure things out on their own.

The well-prepared tourist studies guide books or visits the travel agency. The well-prepared college student visits the counsellor's office and sets up a meeting to tour the campus with a college recruiter. Yet, despite the number of professional advisors out there, most tourists and students circle around official channels and seek the advice of others who have actually gone through the process of being there for themselves.

Each quarter at midterm as the new course offerings emerge, students at ASC can be heard asking others, "Have you ever had So- and-So for math? Who's an easy teacher for English? Does she make you write a term paper? What did you have to do to get a passing grade?" Students are more likely to trust other students' opinions. Misinformation abounds in the advisement process and is a problem that most students have grown frustrated with. They don't know who to trust for accurate information anymore.

Who has not been told that a course was easy and discovered it was hard or been told the class was too advanced for the student's abilities and found that the class was really not that bad? We are rarely given the full story about classes and the college catalog is often of little help in such matters: it tells us there is an additional fee, but not that supplies and materials may add up to a few hundred dollars.

Having been misadvised myself on more than one occasion and having been sent on a search-and-answer mission by an advisor who was clueless, I wondered why advisement was required at all and began advising myself and forging the professor's signature in order to get in line early and take the classes I wanted. It was not until I became serious about seeking a second degree that I actually returned to the advisement process, but it just seemed ridiculous after the first meeting as I already knew what to take and when and was basically just advising my advisor of my progress.

Still, quite frequently I would hear of advisement horrors and dissatisfaction with the current advisement/registration process; so I decided to investigate the matter and discovered in the process that Alicia Kelly, vice

president of SGA, was doing her own investigation and that her findings had so far confirmed my own.

While I had been interviewing individuals on their impressions of the advisement process, Kelly was putting together a report entitled, "Departmental/Divisional Academic Advising" to be presented to Dean Megathlin. The report discusses the importance of Departmental Advising as a source of informal faculty-student interaction and as a vital part of the student's academic career. It highlights the inconsistencies in the current Departmental Advising process and was composed with the help of Dr. Carol Andrews, Mr. Kim West, and numerous faculty and students.

Kelly began her report as a result of receiving improper advisement and states that, "My advisors did not discuss course choices, course loads, or course offerings. They merely signed my advisement notice and sent me on my way." She goes on to say that her advisors did not provide answers to her questions, concerns or problems and that she was disturbed as a student and active student leader that the faculty "if not encouraged, is not mandated to take a more active and productive role in the academic planning of... [the] student body." Kelly feels that "despite the creation and development of the Advisement Center, the current status of Departmental Advisement is not up to par."

Based on her research, Kelly believes that ASC needs to promote the importance of advisement. She cites studies conducted by The Student Task Force on Educa-

tion at Stanford which found informal student-faculty interaction to be one of the most important components of a quality undergraduate education. The report found that students who report more satisfaction with faculty also report more satisfaction with college and are more likely to remain in school and do well in courses.

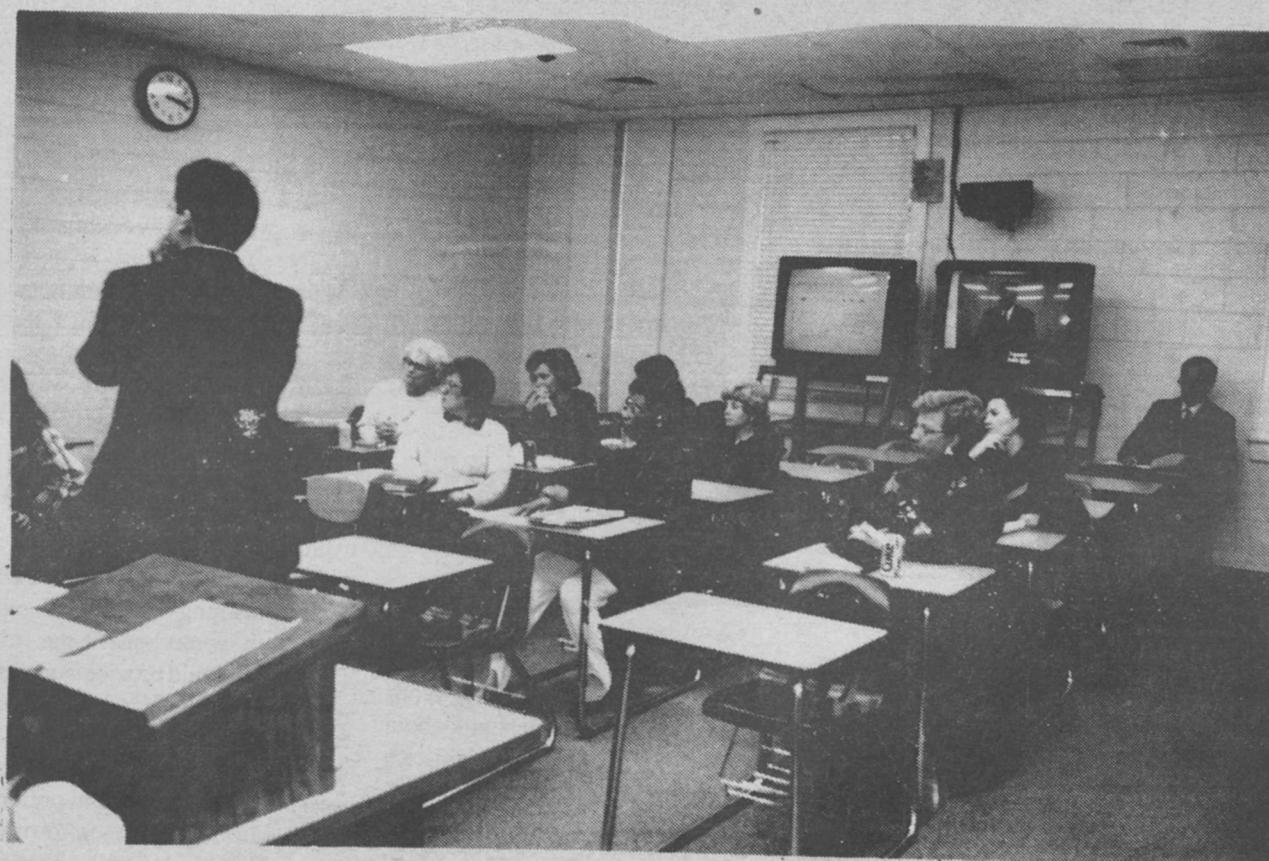
Kelly's report gives a breakdown of the three areas of academic advisement: The Advisement Center, Developmental Studies and Departmental offices. Declared majors are required to be advised at the departmental level. In a random poll of 60 students with declared majors, Kelly discovered that only 25% received actual advisement in accordance with outlined procedures and of those 25%, all ranked their advisor as only fair or average. Sixty-seven percent reported that they or someone they knew signed their own advisement forms, and 20% said that they had taken the wrong course or not signed up for a needed course as a result of faulty advisement. While the results may sound surprising to administrators, it's nothing new to students, who have long since learned that advisement is a bigger pain than it is worth and that while some advisors may follow the golden rule of the tour industry: "Treat everyone as if they are stupid," they often leave off the most important part: "be NICE about it."

Just exactly what should students expect of the advisement process and how can they be certain that the person advising them has their best interest in mind? Dr. Hanson, (mathematics department) who volunteers a

portion of his time to serve as an advisor for general studies and uncommitted majors, states that an instructor has to prepare to be an advisor just as they have to prepare to teach a class. They have to know what is required of each individual to graduate in the time they have allowed. Dr. Stephen Taylor (psychology) emphasizes that a student needs to come prepared to be advised as well. He says that students should have an idea of what they need to take before they come to be advised. When asked if he spent much time with each student, he said that he generally spent more time with freshmen and transfer students, but he expected upper level students, well into their majors to be able to follow the course outline on their own without his having to direct their every move.

Mike Anderson, a psychology major at ASC, agrees that students should map out a plan for their particular major and not expect their advisor to fill out their courses for them, but adds that the advisor needs to be aware of the student's situation. "Many courses are only taught once a year or once every other quarter," said Anderson. He feels that both advisors and students should be aware of these limitations when the student first enters the program. "Dr. Douglass (Anderson's advisor) keeps a file on each one of the students he advises so he can do a quick check to see if the courses they need to take are taken in the time frame allowed. If the pre-

*continued on page 14*



On Wednesday, February 8, Gamble 113 — one of two Distance Learning classrooms on the ASC campus — was linked with the State Capital in Atlanta. Participants of the GSAMS Showcase (GSAMS is Georgia's distance learning network), members of the Armstrong faculty were joined by instructors from White Bluff Elementary School, J.D. Dickerson Elementary School, and Brewton Parker College. That group (pictured above) came together to show off Savannah's most innovative education technology.



# ASC Hosts a Lincoln-Douglas Debate



On Thursday, February 2nd, Dr. John Kearns (left), playing Senator Stephen A. Douglas, took on fellow member of the Department of Government Dr. Daniel Skidmore-Hess (right), who portrayed then citizen and Senatorial candidate Abraham Lincoln. The two instructors followed actual text from the series of debates that occurred across the state of Illinois in 1858.



## Art Seniors Prepare for Annual Exhibition

contributed by:

**Elizabeth Harper**

Under the direction of professor John Schmidt, six seniors in the art department are preparing their portfolios for display in the annual senior art exhibition. The presentation is a prerequisite for a degree in Art or Art Education.

Schmidt believes that "the life of an artist should be one of focused, capable expression." Because exhibition of artistic products is a major means through which artists document and profess their activity, the senior show is an integral part of each student's education.

The class gives students the opportunity to gather a representative and reasonably consistent body of work for the senior exhibition. The artist may choose to modify or extend earlier works or to prepare new culminating ones that contribute to unifying the whole by bridging gaps between previous pieces. Schmidt also guides the students in the presentation of their work and in the creation of a slide record of each artist's achievements for possible use in graduate or exhibition applications. The students learn how to present themselves as artists by creating résumés and through oral presentation.

In preparation for the show the students are composing a collaborative design for their mailers. They have chosen to divide artist and poet William Blake's *The Ancient of Days* (a medieval masterpiece illustrating the Lord as the great geometer and architect of the universe) into six individual sections to be reproduced and reassembled by the artists. They are also devising an additional, more personalized poster to promote their show.

Laura S. Green is seeking her B.A. in Art. She plans to pursue a career as a professional photographer, supporting herself

through a field in which she demonstrates both her exceptional talent and her love of the medium. Green feels it is important to just have fun with your art. Her portfolio consists of black and white, color, and hand-colored photographs. A sampling of Green's work is presently on display in the Lane Library and in *Calliope*.

Lisa Anne Henderson is an Art Education major in preparation for a "happy and productive" career as an educator at the college level. She plans to show her students that art can be whatever they want it to be and to provide them with the means to explore the realm. Henderson will display acrylic and watercolor paintings, original prints, hand-colored photography, ceramic sculpture, and pastel drawings.

Another Art Education major, Andrew H. Lentini, has plans to continue his training after he receives his B.A. from Armstrong. He intends to explore all avenues available to him, including wood working, blacksmithing, and glass working, before seeking a position teaching or supervising on the college level. Lentini says that while he used to feel that art meant nothing, "that pictures and sculptures were there just because the artist wanted them to be," he has come to the realization that whether or not it is intentional, art has meaning both for the

artist and the viewer. He adds that it is immaterial whether or not he means to say what the viewer perceives from his work — to the observer, it is there. "Ultimately we make our own realities. Art is there to make my reality worth living," he reasons. Lentini utilizes images from the natural world in his portfolio, which includes pottery, photography, ceramic sculpture, paintings, and drawings. He enjoys all forms of art and prides himself on the ability to express himself so well in such a wide array of media.

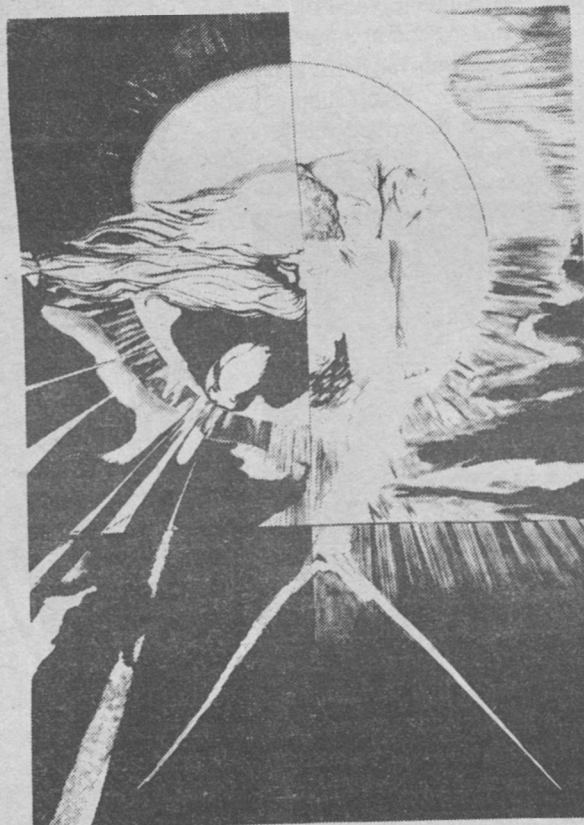
Art major Garry W. McKee, II, says that although he eventually wants to draw

comic books, a more important goal is to be in love with his job no matter what it is. "You should know the rules before you break them," he wrote. "Some people really know good and bad art. They can see the difference. Some people can really dig art in every way (music, visual, literature, etc.), but nothing makes you an artist. You either are or you are not." McKee's portfolio is an amalgam of intriguing drawings, paintings, sculpture, and sequential art from the disciplines of realism, abstract art, and cubism.

Ramona Michelle Singleton will teach art on the secondary level. Her pieces reflect her diverse, mystic, and spiritual beliefs. "The process of creating this type of work involves an understanding of many different religions and spiritual systems and their relationship to one another and to us," she says. Her contribution to the exhibition includes three paintings, a batik, many sculptures, and some recent pottery.

Michael Torrance has plans to obtain a Master's in Art after his graduation from Armstrong. He later intends to pursue a career in illustrative and graphic design. He believes art to be the greatest form of emotional expression, and that all art should evoke emotional reaction in its viewer. Torrance's work displays examples of his illustration in different media, ranging from simple pencil sketches to elaborate etchings.

For those interested in viewing the products of some of Armstrong's most talented, the senior art exhibition will be presented in the Armstrong Fine Arts Gallery, March 1-18. A reception will be held on Friday March 3, from six to eight p.m. Viewers will be given the opportunity to meet and question the artists. The show is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the offices of Art and Music at 927-5325.





# Bandemonium '95 Rocks !

contributed by: **Joe McKenzie**

The house, indeed, came crumbling down Saturday, January 28 as Bandemonium '95 rocked its way to a maddening climax. Eight local bands came together in this momentous clash of the rockers to find out which truly is the best band in the low country. Competing were: The Stand, Gone Dogs, Pig Fat, Bend Sinister, Reckless Abandon, Common Heart, Hope to Die, and Zellus.

As the bands began performing, the audience steadily grew, finally filling the Fine Arts Auditorium. First up was Reckless Abandon, from Guyton, who have only been a together for four months. Bandemonium was their first contest, but the confident group hinted that they were anticipating a victory. Although they did not claim the title, Reckless Abandon did finish among the top four.

Next up was The Stand, a band with members from as far away as Alaska, California, and Virginia. Together for two years, the group was awarded Best New Band at Bandemonium '93. Excited about competing again at ASC, band members hoped their participation might help rekindle the music scene in Savannah. (The Stand will be performing at River Street on St. Patrick's Day.)

Gone Dogs are a band from South Carolina who have been around for four years. Before taking stage, Gone Dogs huddled together to offer up a prayer asking for help to bring people together with music. Although they admitted definite influences from the likes of Jimmie Hendrix, Aretha Franklin, and U2, band members were determined to have an original sound.

There were two "Christian Rock" bands at Bandemonium '95: Hope to Die, together for a year and a half, and Common Heart, who have been making music together for five years. Both bands are from Savannah. Rocking for Jesus Christ, himself, Common Heart had their sights not on winning but on spreading the Lord's good will. Hope to Die, a fast paced group who credits Smashing Pumpkins and Dream Theater as influential, was more serious about winning.

Perhaps the most unusual band was Pig Fat, from Statesboro. This group had an elaborate mixture of hard core smash, country music twang, and even rap with scratching records. Band member Josh Allen described the group as

"Redneck Thunderfunk."

Zellus, a hard-core band from Port Royal have only been together for three months. Though band members appeared nervous before taking the stage, once there, they had a rich sound flowing, especially from the lead guitar. Zellus roused their audience by giving away T-shirts and drum sticks.

Bend Sinister, another Savannah band, has been rocking for three years. This was their first Bandemonium experience. Still, they appeared very confident. Their sound seemed to be heavily influenced by Rush.

When the awards were finally presented, Pig Fat walked away with the "Most Original Band" award, as well as "Best New Band" and "Runner-Up." Bend Sinister was named "Best Instrumental Band." Gone Dogs, who was awarded "Best Vocals," was crowned champion of Bandemonium '95.

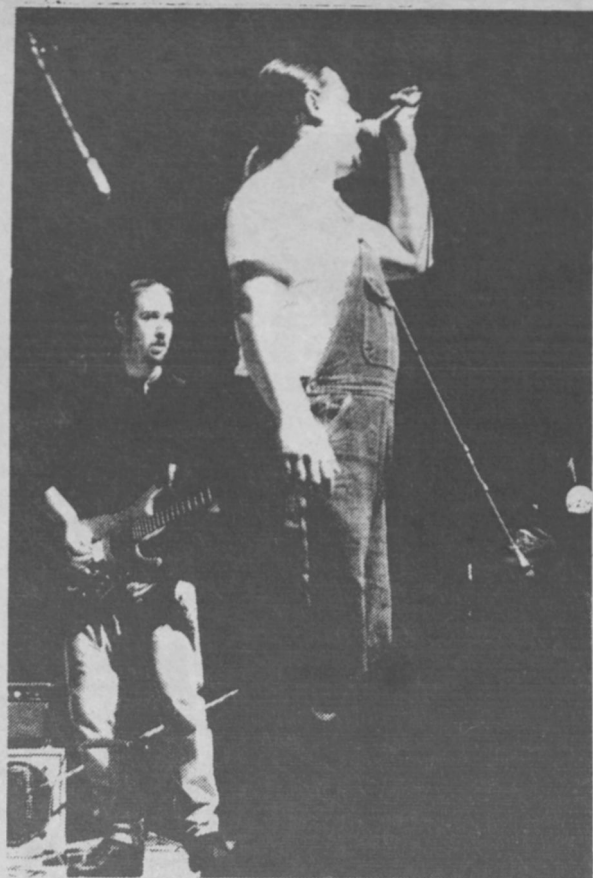
I-95s Jay Sinclair, who hosted the event with clever wit, commented that he believed this year's competition to be better than last year's, and that the most talented bands won the awards. The talent, he added, was still in the potential stage, "like diamonds in the coal."

When asked what he thought of the bands, judge Scott Davenport of Geffen Records commented that the bands all had a lot of room for growth, but there was definitely some potential.

The event, co-sponsored by WIXV, was judged by a panel that included Davenport and Gina Suarez of A+M Records. Davenport spent seven years in the record business where he produced such bands as The Black Crowes, The Eagles, and Guns And Roses. Suarez has spent 14 years producing such act as Sting, Allgood, Bryan Adams, and Amy Grant. When asked if they had come scouting new talent, the reply was simply, "Always."

Overall the day turned out to be a success for Rock Me Productions, the group who put on the awesome show. Rock Me Chairman Brad Jensen, in particular, deserves recognition for coordinating a spectacular production.

While many concert goers had mixed feelings about which band should have won, it seemed that most were glad that Gone Dogs won. The band sure was.

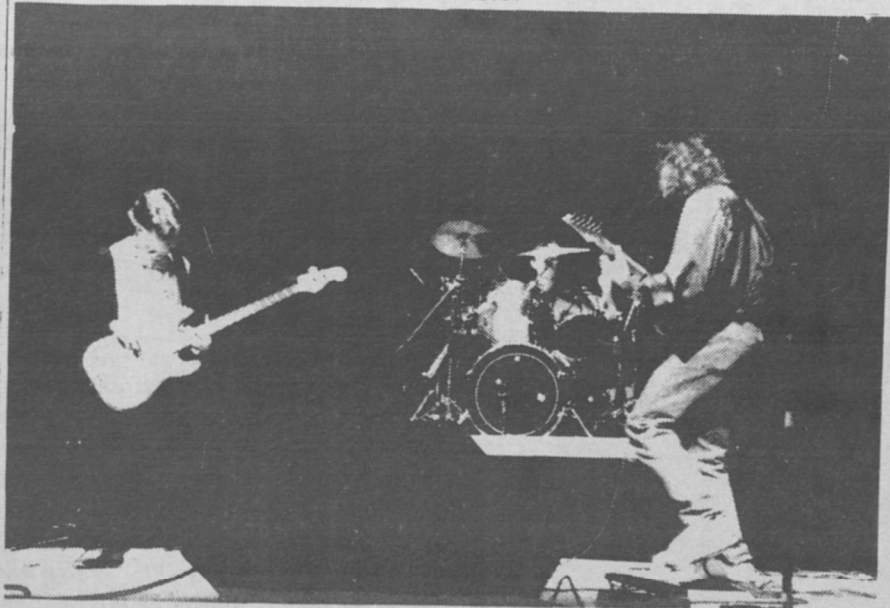


**"Best New Band" Pig Fat**



**Christian Rock Band Hope to Die**

**"Best Instrumental Band" Bend Sinister**



## 1995 Bandemonium Winner:



**Gone Dogs**



# Globetrotting: Gross in India...

contributed by: **Aurelia Roth**

Dr. Gross quarantined?

That's not funny because it could have happened! When the Bubonic plague broke out in India last year, Dr. Jim Gross, History, happened to be there as an exchange professor. Although he wasn't overly concerned about getting the disease, he did watch with alarm how several countries, including Germany — whose Frankfurt airport served as his connection point to the United States — closed their entrance points to travelers coming from India. Luckily, the borders were opened again as cases of outbreaks decreased, and Dr. Gross, upon completion of his duties, made it safely back home.

During the fall quarter of 1994, within the frame of an exchange program, Dr. Gross taught at one of the affiliated colleges (there are over 100) of the Andhra Pradesh University in Vishakhapatnam, a city on India's east coast, with the obligation to lecture on American History at the graduate level. It was suggested by Indian faculty members that he begin with the American Revolution which he did. What he discovered in the process was that the focus of the local academia's interest in the American Revolution could be traced to certain beliefs. If Gross expected to find at the core Thomas Jefferson's "pursuit of happiness," he learned that instead Indians seemed to perceive a parallel between the American "colony of Britain" and the Indian

History in general seemed to be defined by a greater emphasis on the lives of great personalities. Accordingly, Gross was expected to lecture on "great Americans" and found that Lincoln seemed to be the most significant American for Indians.

A principal source of information on campus was the periodical. A newspaper stall across from the main gate of the university was frequently sought out by Gross as well as other professors who then would take the material back to the faculty club to read in leisure. A number of other newspapers were also at their disposal there, though they were Indian; the one exception, *The Herald Tribune*, was rather popular but often not available. Gross describes the Indian attitude towards the foreign press and publishers as laden with feelings of "deep suspicion."

He definitely returned that particular feeling when confronted with another Indian phenomenon, the traffic. The average Indian highway is used — in addition to regular automobiles — by trucks, motorbikes, bicycles, tractors, pedestrians and cattle, or as Gross says, "by anything that moves." He found himself square in the middle of one of those great highway jigsaw puzzles one day, on an excursion from Delhi, his port of entrance, to the city of Agra. Occupying the back of a taxi, he was fighting not only the non-air-conditioned tropical air but also the additional heat generated by the engine which somehow got

passed and beyond the obstacles and calamities of that slowly dripping, syrupy syssarcosis of a hot Indian highway.

Gross was richly rewarded, though, by the view of Agra's piece de resistance, the Taj Mahal. This most famous building of Indo-Islamic architecture was erected by the mogul ruler, Sha Jahan, as a tomb for his beloved wife who died prematurely in 1631. Built by 20,000 workers over a period of almost 20 years, this structure of shiny white marble has since captured people's imagination as a symbol of serenity and eternal love.

"Is it really all it is purported to be?" I ask. "Yes, it is," Gross says, "it is magnificent."

In all major tourist areas there are eager guides who are sometimes more pleasant than they are competent; and, Gross adds, "it is not unusual for some to lapse into political harangues which have nothing to do with their objective." They also seem to be "commissioned" by shops as they lead tourists regularly into at least three places to obtain souvenirs. (No, Gross did not buy an oriental rug.) Guides are only a part of a variety of small entrepreneurs who, for a fee, lend out flashlights to visitors of underground facilities, "watch" shoes which have to be taken off before a temple can be entered, and facilitate picture-taking of special picturesque Indian scenes, such as snake-charming or the pulling of a lawnmower by a bull.

There is also a military fort at Agra; it is a defensive fort which includes the imperial palace, impressive with its inlays and oriental carpets. The color pink, by the way, which is so often seen in Indian buildings, is a sign of hospitality.

Gross got to feel the impact of hospitality, "which is legendary," he says, in a major way. A number of faculty members generously invited him to dinner or tea, and one family, refusing to take any money, was gracious enough to keep him for a few days before his final return flight. Before he took his leave from the campus, the History department, at a surprise formal tea, presented him with a big solid-wood name board (which he will install in his office) and the brass university insignia, inscribed with "Diamond Jubilee 1926."

"It was an extraordinary gesture," Gross says, "and I was deeply touched." The honor of being given the insignia is normally reserved for retiring professors after many years of service.

Since his return to the USA, contact has not been interrupted. He got Christmas and New Year's cards not only from members of the faculty, but also from the cook and some students. Gross appreciates the students' response particularly since Indian students and professors do not mix socially; there is no provision or setting for

their mingling. The students are very deferential to their professors and stand up in class when asked to speak. It is unusual for a professor to stop and talk to a student walking by on campus, as Gross sometimes



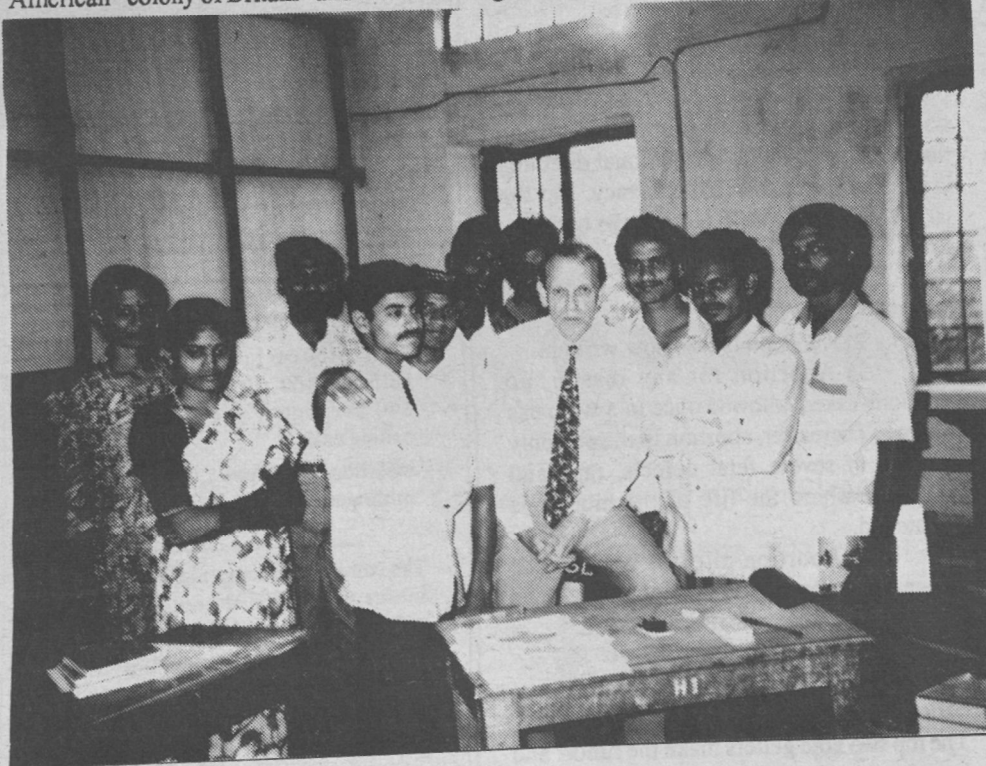
did. But they all appreciated the opportunity given to ask him his opinion of India and in turn transmit their interest in America. Used to the British system of examinations and less exposure to the exchange of discussions in the class room, ("I tried to lessen the distance from the podium to the desks," Gross says) they often desire to come to the U.S. for enrollment in graduate programs, but cannot always afford it. Nevertheless, says Gross, "there is an extraordinary educational link between India and the U.S."

Back in the U. S. of A, some Indian impressions still linger strongly. Gross was rather appalled, he says, at the impact of caste still apparent in Indian life, even if Gandhi might have succeeded in eliminating the Untouchables; it was "a bit of a shock" for somebody who — like the rest of us — lives in the land of political correctness. He also reflects on the great opportunity of exposure he had to Indian culture, at the same time realizing certain aspects of modern American life that are so easily taken for granted.

Not only did he, for example, become an involuntary vegetarian, he also had to get used to Beslari, his "constant companion." (Beslari is the Indian mineral water.)

When he traveled to Madras, one night, on a 2nd class sleeper train ("Don't travel 2nd class if you can help it," Gross says) and had already settled in the ticketed sleeping berth of his compartment, the conductor made him change to the upper berth. It turned out, the ticket agent had sold his place to a second party. He thus learned first hand that overbooking was a frequent habit here and as common as the great amount of unticketed passengers riding trains.

But it didn't really matter at that point, he says; he couldn't sleep much anyway.



"colony of Britain," both having established their independence from a dominating country. The second point of interest lay in the Declaration of Independence which asserted "equal station of all nations." This concept was of particular significance to Indians who felt that they had not been accorded this "equal station" by Britain.

blown directly into the back of the car, and as he looked out in amazement at this exotic conglomerate he kept wondering if they'd ever even make it out of Delhi. With an average speed of 25 miles an hour, it took the taxi driver about four hours for the approximately 100 mile-long trip, maneuvering his freight — the cool, composed Westerner in the back — around,



# All History is Ours to Share

Since the February 1 edition of the *Inkwell* went into circulation a couple of weeks ago, I have been approached by several students who wondered why there had been no mention of Black History Month. Not only did I understand their curiosity, I sincerely appreciated it. Their queries indicated two very positive things to me: 1) students are reading the *Inkwell* and 2) there is general concern over the station of blacks in America. Unfortunately, I had to disappoint them: I told each flatly that I had no intention of highlighting the achievements of black Americans simply because it is February. I fear, though, that they may not have fully understood my point; therefore, I shall take this opportunity to explain my position.

I prefer not to celebrate Black History Month for the same reason I prefer not to use the term "African-American." Both undermine efforts to bring all human beings into one global community. Both segregate.

I prefer not to celebrate Black History Month because, in a way, I feel excluded from marveling at the many accomplishments blacks have made throughout the millennia. It is as if I am allowed to stand along the side of the parade route and cheer, but I cannot walk in the parade itself.

I feel as if a portion of history is placed off-limits and now I have to be very careful what I say. Am I not allowed to speak of Thomas Jefferson and W.E.B. DuBois in the same breath during these twenty-eight

days? Do I have to categorize one as a president and enlightened author of the Declaration of Independence and the other singularly as spokesman for an entire race of humans; do I have to ignore Jefferson altogether; do I have to constantly mention that he was a slave owner and that he had illegitimate children by at least one of his slaves. Am I allowed to discuss the contributions of Willie DuBois, or do I have to leave that to one of my black colleagues? Is it okay to consider a black my colleague?

These questions, foolish as they may be, are not only validated but also nurtured by our ever-increasing desire to find an identity.

Instead of hyphenating ourselves into an oblivion of individualism, we should be taking comfort in the many. Instead of isolating ourselves, we should be rejoicing in the company of not only our friends but also our strangers. According to the Chinese philosopher Confucius, the whole can only exist with the union of opposing parts. As long as we continue to divide ourselves in ignorance of all the many other selves, we will be missing the one whole, the bigger picture: we are ultimately members of a single, global community. So, I am prevented from celebrating Black History Month by my great desire to take steps toward the actualization of that one community.

I do not ignore black history makers, I ignore black history — because I believe there is no such thing. History is for all of us to share.

There are some who disagree. In particular, there is Louis Farrakahn and Benjamin Chavis. These men, who could be contributing members of an entire society but who have chosen to be self-appointed spokesmen for a small portion of that society, have announced that they intend to lead a march on Washington, D.C. in October of this year. They do not intend, however, to invite all who are concerned with the station of blacks in society to march with them. Black men alone are invited, and their organizers expect more than a million to participate.

It seems that Chavis and Farrakahn are trying to write some black history of their own. By excluding other concerned humans, they believe they can create an event to call their own. But it can never belong only to them. Such an event would effect us all too much for society to relegate it to the realms of black history — to be minded once a year.

Farrakahn and Chavis and all who hope to use history to find an identity should learn that we are both a part and a result of an ever-evolving history that for ages paid no notice to pigmentation.

Black history is my history; black history is your history; black history made both you and me.

Please don't limit my celebration of the great accomplishments of black people to once a year.

— Michael Walker

## Abortion: Battle of Extremes

The one aspect of the whole abortion debacle that should weigh most heavily on the national consciousness is this: the resolution (if such a thing is possible) will more than likely be determined by an extremist group that take such vehement stands on the issue. More centrist Americans, a majority by far, are going to be ignored — business as usual in the good ole U.S. of A., the land of the free. Extremists on both sides of the debate insist that compromise is not an option. But Zealots of any stripe, be it in the name of religion or self-determination, are hardly credible arbiters of any issue, especially one of this complexity, where evaluations will be measured in lives lost or preserved.

The pro-choice camp would have you believe that it is a simple matter of tissue removal, nothing more than a mere part of a woman's body to do with what she sees fit. Who are others, they ask, to dictate destinies, to regulate life, to relegate the role of a mother as little more than society's baby-factory? A valid point and equally valid questions, they conveniently sidestep any moral considerations.

Fundamental to the armament of the pro-life movement is their regard for the sanctity of life and what they perceive as a moral imperative to stop the murder of

defenseless unborn children. Such an imperative raises certain interesting questions: who should society value more — pre-humans or people who have been around for a while? How can you murder something, that, by definition, is not born yet?

There is, of course, the sticking point for both billigerents: when exactly does life begin? If life begins at the precise moment of conception, that is the instant the sperm penetrates the ovum, then abortion is murder, and murder is already against the law. But if a truer definition of life includes self-awareness, the ability to reason, and the capacity for abstract thought, then certainly a fetus in any stage of gestation has a tenuous grasp, at best, on our sympathies as a fellow human.

Let us not forget the soul. Does it exist? If so, at what moment does it begin to exist? Is it inherent in our corporeal forms from the point of conception or does it evolve gradually, mimicking our physical development? No one is, or can be, an authority on any of this. No one can answer these questions.

There is a middle ground, however, on which most of the nation stands. The middle ground of uncertainty; the middle ground where one is not comfortable with either option: 1) abortion as a form of birth

control, or 2) legislation that controls the biological destiny of more than half the population by forcing motherhood upon them. The solution to this national dilemma is simple. America is a democracy. Put the issue to a direct vote. Here are the options:

- 1) No restrictions on abortion, period.
- 2) Abortion law as now written.
- 3) Abortion for any reason, no questions asked, allowed once in a woman's lifetime. Thereafter, abortion is allowed only in cases of severe fetal defects, rape and incest, or where the life of the mother is threatened.
- 4) Abortion allowed only in the severe cases described in option #3.
- 5) Abortion is illegal, period.

Put these five options on a national ballot during the 1996 presidential election. The top two vote getters make the runoff and have four years to be debated. Then, in 2000, another final, binding vote will be taken. Total votes cast nationwide determine the winner, with said votes being enfranchised to only women between the ages of 18 and 48. (Sorry, gentlemen. Because you undergo neither pregnancy nor its termination, you have no say in the matter.) Regardless of the

the inkwell

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The *Inkwell* is published and distributed five times during each of the fall, winter, and spring quarters bi-weekly, on alternate Wednesdays. Copies are available in distribution boxes located in Hawes hall, Solms hall, Gamble hall, Victor hall, Jenkins hall, Lane library, the Cafeteria, the Gymnasium, the Administration Building, and the Fine Arts Building. Subscriptions are available for home delivery, via the mail for five dollars per quarter.

The *Inkwell* welcomes letters provided they are clearly printed or typed. In addition, all letters must be signed and include a mailing address, for verification purposes only. Names will be withheld upon request, but a confidential signature must be included.

The *Inkwell* also welcomes public service announcements, press releases, etc. Appropriate notices will be printed, free of charge, at the discretion of the editorial staff.

The *Inkwell's* advertising rates:

national: \$7.50 per column inch  
local: \$150 per full page, \$90 per halpage, \$60 per quarter page, \$40 per eighth page, \$20 per calling card  
insertions: \$75 per 1,000; 1,000 minimum; 2,500 maximum

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Please direct all concerns to  
Michael Walker, Supervising Editor

outcome, a segment of our population is going to be upset. Tough. There can be no flawless solution, only a workable one.

— L.D. Lorren



# Letters

## Editor:

The following is a letter I sent to Dr. Ed Wheeler of the Math and Computer Science Department. I would like the student body to see it as well.

I have been looking forward with great anticipation to your new experimental program called Math 105 and Math 106, which will in essence take Math 101 and divide it into two quarters, slowing the pace and giving students more in-depth instruction. The core syllabus for Math 105 states that if a student passes Math 101 with a D or better, the student will not be allowed to take Math 105. What troubles me is the fact that neither myself nor my advisor was made aware of this restriction when I preregistered for Math 105 last quarter.

I favor this program. In a small way I helped advocate the Math 105 class, and I wanted to be a part of its success. I have taken five developmental studies classes — one more than is usually allowed due to my GPA. Even though I passed the CPE after taking

two DS classes, I knew I still did not possess the skills needed to master Math 101.

I passed my last Math 99 class in spring '94. I then took Math 101 during the summer quarter while the material was fresh in my mind. At the midterm I had a B average. I was confident I would pass, but I preregistered for Math 101 for the fall quarter anyway. You see, I knew after the midterm we would be going over material that had not been covered in Math 99.

As it turned out, I was correct in guessing that I would fail all tests after the midterm. The class was moving too fast for me to grasp. I still made numerous trips to Dr. Shiply's office and the math tutorial lab, but the pace was too much for my inadequacy in math. I repeated Math 101 in the fall and maintained a C until the final. I passed the class with a D. The grade didn't upset me because I am a determined forty-five year-old student who is determined to become educated, and I don't care how long it takes. I had already preregistered for Math 105 by that time and looked forward to it, talked about it to other students who had the same problems

in math, and encouraged many to sign up for the same class. I was confident that my success would finally be assured by the slower pace.

On the first day of class, the instructor read the third stipulation on the syllabus. As a result, two others and I went in search of the head of the Math department. We were directed to your door, Dr. Wheeler. This letter is in response to your request, made after our short interview, that I write you a long letter for you to put on file as you said "to ponder its good points in two years."

Dr. Wheeler, I understand your reluctance to change a program that you have worked on for two years, but, sir, it is also the student's program, the ones who attend class, and also those who helped inspire the class by voicing their opinions and concerns about what they felt were inadequate teaching methods. I personally want to master the fundamentals of algebra, not just pass a class. To master algebra, I need time and practice. I am now in a Math 101 class that only meets three times a week. The lectures are longer and there is more material to digest at one time. I

am now back at square one with a minus in front.

I understand your persistence, but I am also determined. I am determined to gain access to programs that will reward my serious efforts and assure my success.

— Wanda Martin

## Editor:

Why are the prices in the A.S.C. cafeteria so outrageous? At a time when people have to budget their money, the cafeteria is making a killing off of students and employees. For example, \$2.49 for the same salad you can buy at Wendy's for \$0.99. How can this be? The cafeteria is supposed to be affordable as well as convenient. By the way, the food is certainly nothing to brag about. If you choose to eat at the cafeteria, be sure to bring your wallet and remember, you may not go around hungry, but you will go around broke.

— A Concerned Employee

## Editor:

When I started at Armstrong, I was impressed by the intelligence of its faculty. I have taken many hours since I first walked through the doors to higher learning, yet I am still impressed by their intelligence.

I was totally shocked to find out that these learned people were so ignorant as to believe that being a pirate was a man's occupation. Through history many underprivileged peoples of the world have decided to be pirates, buccaneers, seafarers, and cavaliers.

In the late 1720's Captain Johnson captured the ship of Calico Jack Rackam, and was impressed with two members of his crew. While all the crew and captain cowered below decks, two of the crew attempted to repeal borders. Twenty men had roamed and pillaged at sea, and had become known as hellhounds; after their capture eighteen were convicted. While the trial of the pirates was proceeding, it was found that two of the crew were unique. These were the two crew members who refused to give up without a fight. Born of poor families, illegitimate children. One was from London, while the other was from Ireland, one's father died at sea while the other's took her to Charleston, South Carolina. While one had to be raised as a boy the other grew up a lady of fierce and courageous temper.

Anne Bonny and Mary Read were described as fierce, swashbuckling women, genuine pirates in every sense. Miss Dorothy Thomas testified at their trial, that both wore men's jackets and long trousers, with handkerchiefs tied around their heads. With machetes and pistols in hand, they tried to kill her so that she would not identify the two as women.

Cross-dressing was necessary because women were not accepted as, into

the crew of a deep sea vessel. The work was hard and the living conditions were beyond imagination on those chronically leaking ships. Lifting cargo, hoisting heavy canvas sails, manning the hoist to raise the anchor was a hard life that made a man of all who entered the occupation. It was a hard life often, ending with lameness, hernia, mutilations, and often premature death.

Life was hard in the seventeen hundreds, but Anne and Mary endured and prospered. The two of them became folk

heroes, and until the idea of the proper woman arose did their popularity wane. These women were probably the foremothers of the liberated woman. North Carolina also had female buccaneers who were just as tough as their male counterparts, if not cruellers.

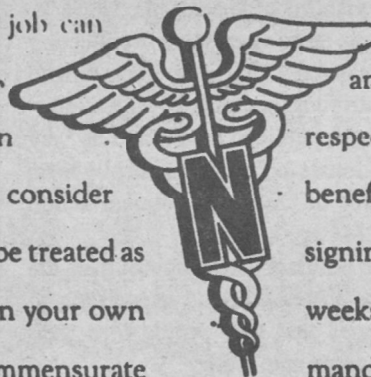
I wonder how much effort was given to giving up the image of a free-spirited seafaring person, looking for adventure, facing the hardship of a life at sea, and the adversity of their occupation, for the bottom-

dwelling crab-and-scurm-eating second cousin of the shark, which have never been identified with anything other than cowardliness. I personally like the idea of being free-spirited, adventurous, and willing to step out on a limb, if it will enhance the image of my crew.

— Name Withheld

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# Gingrich: PAC Addict

Newt Gingrich's name is synonymous with partisan politics. He is known by some as a "Bomb Thrower," by others as an ever vigilant defender of conservatives ideals. He is in short ruthless, tenacious, and merciless. He is seen by his opponents as unethical and by his allies as an ardent warrior.

Gingrich is a politician who is driven by ambition. His ambition, like an addiction, needs cash to achieve the ultimate high. Like an addict, the source does not matter nor the means. The only thing that matters is replenishing the thirst for power.

Gingrich is the son of a military officer. He graduated from Emory University with a degree in History and later obtained a Ph.D. in European history at Tulane. He saw his experience at school as a necessary irritant to achieve his overall goal, entering politics.

He obtained a job as professor of History at West Georgia State College. Teaching, though, served as only a weigh station until Gingrich ran for office.

After two unsuccessful bids in 1974 and 1976, Newt Gingrich won a seat in Congress in 1978.

His legislative record is thin. Gingrich has been more interested in being a partisan political fighter than a legislator. Perceived by his political opponents as ruthless, his meanness and lack of tact was displayed most recently when Gingrich implied that Democrats were to blame for Susan Smith killing her two children.

In 1989 Gingrich won the post of Republican Whip. The ambitious Gingrich challenged the authority of then House Minority leader George Michel. He often went on television endorsing policies that were not officially endorsed by Republicans. Michel saw Gingrich as a reckless "loudmouth." After Michel announced his retirement from Congress, Gingrich wasted no time. He acted as the de facto leader of Republicans in the House, oftentimes completely ignoring Michel.

Even though Gingrich has become one of the leaders of Congress, staying on the Hill has not been easy. He was reelected in 1990 by a slim 974 votes and nearly lost the 1992 primary to his Republican challenger. To maintain a foothold in Congress, Gingrich has had to build up a formidable war chest. His personal fund-raising committee, "Friends of Newt Gingrich," raised an estimated \$2 million for his 1994 political race.

Contributions from Political Action Committees or P.A.C.s are invaluable assets to Gingrich. Contributions from P.A.C.s made up 83% of Gingrich's campaign funds. 102 political action committees have contributed to Gingrich since 1993. The P.A.C. contributors range from Aetna Life and Casualty to the Coca-Cola company.

With a hefty war chest, Gingrich had little to worry about this past campaign season. He focused his concerns on Republican races elsewhere.

If Newt Gingrich was to have real power in Congress, beyond that of Minority Leader, he would need other Republican candidates to win their races. To achieve this, Gingrich needed the means and some cash. G.O.P.A.C. would furnish the means. Gingrich would furnish the money.

G.O.P.A.C. was formed in 1979 by former Delaware Governor Pierre "Pete" Dupont and twelve other Republican governors. It is a Republican political action committee which receives contributions for the Republican party. The donations/contributions are then distributed to Republican candidates in national and local races.

When Gingrich took over in 1986 he changed the focus of G.O.P.A.C. The cash would no longer go directly to candidates but instead toward the recruitment and training of Republican candidates.

The Republican candidates received literature and videos from G.O.P.A.C. that explained how to run an effective campaign. They were shown how to attack their opponent verbally, exposed to a vocabulary list that points out which words are effective enough to damage their opponent, and given inspirational video taped speeches by Gingrich himself. One of the boasts expressed in the literature is that Republican candidates who have seen the tape are to have said, "I wish I could speak like Newt."

Under the charge of Gingrich, G.O.P.A.C. became more aggressive in collecting contributions. In five years the political organization collected \$7 million. According to sources, G.O.P.A.C. policy dictates that the lists of contributors remains confidential.

In terms of cash, Gingrich raised \$3 million for Republican candidates by way of \$1,000 plate dinners. He also pressured incumbents to donate to Republican challengers which added up to another \$5 million. Another source of cash was political action committees whom Gingrich strong armed.

Gingrich introduced Republican challengers to political action committees the day after Republican candidates signed the "Contract With America." According to sources, when Gingrich met with P.A.C.s he threatened that they would lose their influence in Washington if they did not contribute and contribute well.

On November 4, 1994 Newt Gingrich acquired more power than any Republican congressman had obtained since. With Gingrich's help, the Republicans won overwhelming victories in the congressional races giving them power in both houses of Congress. By virtue of achieving a majority in the House, Gingrich became Speaker.

If the story ended now it might be a happy ending, but their are seldom happy endings in politics.

Since 1993 Gingrich conducted a college lecture series funded by the Progress

and Freedom Foundation, a Republican think tank which was an offspring of G.O.P.A.C. In the series, called "Renewing American Civilization," Gingrich preached the gospel of free markets. A problem arose when Gingrich kept plugging the names of big contributors to the foundation and G.O.P.A.C. during the lectures. Textile magnate and longtime Gingrich contributor, Roger Milliken was among those promoted. Milliken contributed \$255,000 to G.O.P.A.C.

Plugging big contributors is not the only charge facing Gingrich concerning the lecture series. Ben Jones, Gingrich's democratic opponent during the last campaign, alleges that the lectures were used to "disseminate partisan theories and to encourage students to join and work for the Republican party."

Another allegation is that Gingrich's longtime contributors took the chance to make tax-exempt contributions to the lecture series. Therefore, the series may be conceived for political purposes rather than academic, supporting Jones's claim that the course leaned more toward recruiting than teaching.

Another dilemma for Gingrich was that G.O.P.A.C. still will not disclose their contributors. G.O.P.A.C. "has clearly violated the spirit of the laws which govern how much people can give to support politicians," said Ellen Miller, executive director of the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics that tracks federal campaign contributions. "The biggest concern is the fact that it is all hidden." G.O.P.A.C. did reveal some of their larger contributors but not their Charter members who gave \$10,000 annually. "We've got some of the shyest people you've ever known who contribute to G.O.P.A.C.," Howard H. (Bo) Callaway G.O.P.A.C. chairman said. One of the largest contributors is former Wisconsin Republican gubernatorial challenger Terry Kohler, who gave just over \$500,000. In 1991 Kohler was in hot water when he said that giving the black South Africans the vote would be a "disaster." He later apologized. Another major contributor is Southwire Inc. in Carrollton, Georgia, which recently was fined \$1 million for exporting contaminated fertilizer.

The Federal Elections Commission is presently suing G.O.P.A.C. because they did not register earlier as a political committee.

Gingrich attempted to dismantle the House Ethics Committee so as to bury the allegations, but Democrats stopped the maneuver. Still, the Republicans are linked so closely to G.O.P.A.C. that a bipartisan investigation may be impossible.

It remains to be seen if Gingrich will face any serious sanctions for these allegations if they are proven. And it remains to be seen if an investigation by a political body will take place now that Republicans control Congress. The only investigators presently looking into it are journalists, who will only continue to do so as long as it is in their interest. Because we don't demand the truth, it seems that Gingrich is safe, for now.

— Adam Butcher

## Buyer Beware: The Credit Trap

contributed by:

**Judy Schuman, Economics Club**

For a growing number of crediting institutions, here is an enormously appealing and profitable group of consumers spending a lot of money — about \$99 billion in 1994. Teenagers are targeted by many credit card companies and banks, which lure the inexperienced purchasers into using their "plastic money." "Pre-approved Applications" are very attractive to younger people, who may not yet be concerned with establishing a sound fiscal policy. You may have noticed the inserts that have accompanied each of the previous six editions of the *Inkwell* — pre-approved applications for a variety of credit cards.

Filling out one of these forms is all too easy. Unfortunately, there is one caveat that young people may overlook: payment time. The creditor has nothing to lose — pay now or pay later. And sometimes it is the parents who are left footing the bill.

Credit can be helpful in emergency situations, but it can also be dangerous. Consumers, young and old, can easily become accustomed to the indulgences and instant gratification effected by credit purchases. The result is often unmanageable debt, particularly for younger consumers who are

still earn entry level wages. For unemployed students, the temptation is even greater, but so are the risks. They don't necessarily have any steady income so they charge a few purchases. Again, they have no regular income so they are unable to payoff their debt and the interest begins to compound.

One mother tells the story of her daughter who charged \$5,000 worth of purchases over the course of one year. The daughter had to drop out of college to work off the debt.

The more cards are used, the greater the line of credit becomes. Banks don't want to limit your purchasing ability by keeping ceilings low; they want you to use their cards, often. Inexperienced consumers should take some time to consider the principles of compounding interest. For example, you may have to pay as much as \$72 for a \$60 pair of shoes. You say that's not so bad? What about the \$300 worth of books for last quarter? You could get stuck paying \$50-\$60 in interest — about what you'd get for selling them back to the bookstore.

Credit cards are a powerful purchasing tool, when used properly. Still, there is evidence that we are becoming a nation of debtors. The federal government, I'm sure, is not the only body in the practice of overspending. Don't you agree?



# Attention ASC!

## A New Course Offering in Economics at ASC

### ECO 450: Public Finance is being offered Spring Quarter 1995

This course studies the application of economic analysis in the role of government. It uses both micro and macro economic concepts. Emphasis is on the reasons for and the effects of government intervention in the economy.

Topics covered include: market failure, public goods and externalities, public choice and political equilibrium, taxation, public debt and cost benefit analysis, and some selected areas of public policy such as welfare, defense, health care, etc.

Prerequisite: ECO 201 — Principles of Macroeconomics or equivalent. For more information, please contact Dr. Khondker, Victor-203A, 927-5221

A concert by Samuel Brown, tenor, and Mary Brown, pianist, including works by Bach, arias, and pieces by 20th-century American and British composers will be given on Thursday, February 16, 1:30pm at the Fine Arts Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public.

## S.T.A.R.S. Noon Workshop Series

Students Taking Active Responsibility for Success

Tuesday, February 21 Time Management/Organizational Skills

Tuesday, February 28 Decision Making/Problem Solving

Thursday, March 2 Values

Tuesday, March 7 Assertiveness Training

Workshops will be held in the CAREER LIBRARY at the Division of Student Affairs, MCC.

## Bookstore News:

The ASC Bookstore will be closed February 27th and 28th for inventory.

A representative from ART CARVED will be on the campus on Monday, February 20th from 10am to 2pm and from 3pm to 6pm and Tuesday, February 21st from 10 am to 3pm. All students interested in a class ring should be present.

Author Jonathan Grant will give a lecture about the history of the black experience in Georgia titled: *The Way It Was in the South: The Black Experience in Georgia* on Monday, February 20, Noon at the Health Professions Auditorium. The presentation is free and open to the public.

**SENIORS:**  
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graduation  
by March  
1st!

## Faculty Lecture Series...

### It All Runs Downhill: Personal Perspectives on Pollution

James T. Byrd, Department of Chemistry and Physics

To most people, the word pollution brings to mind images of large pipes disgorging swirls of multicolored chemicals into a river or smokestacks belching billows of noxious gases into the sky. While these scenes do exist, many current threats to the environment and the public health are the result of discharges of a more personal nature. This talk will examine global environmental problems of a scatological type, their history, present remedial efforts, and possible solutions.

The lecture will take place in the Health Professions Auditorium during the Noon hour, on Thursday, February 23rd.



## Sports *by Stuart Crosby*

# Lady Pirates Gear-Up for End of Season

There is a new face in the Armstrong athletic department this year. That face belongs to Kim Bynum, the new coach of the Lady Pirates. Bynum comes to ASC after a two year stint at Clinch Valley College in Wise, Virginia. While at Clinch Valley, she compiled a record of 32-30 including a national ranking her first year. Prior to that, Bynum was an assistant coach at Eastern Kentucky University. While there, the team was runner-up in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Because of her past background, Bynum has set a goal for herself and the program. That goal is to have a competitive basketball program. "It is one of my goals to have a nationally prominent (NCAA) Division 2 program, no matter where I am," she says, "I want to play nationally ranked teams and beat nationally ranked teams." Bynum pointed out this season is the toughest schedule the school has had in a number of years. So far, they have played four nationally ranked teams and a Division I school (Georgia Southern). Bynum has seen a few challenges along the way in her attempt to reach this goal.

Among the challenges Bynum has had to deal with is the continuity between new players and coaches. "They all looked at one another," Bynum said. "They didn't know one another. We had seven new players (five freshmen and two junior college transfers). We looked at one another and wondered who would step up and be our leaders. I did too. Here are seven new players and two coaches (Jennifer Bright was hired as an assistant prior to the season)."

Bynum sees conditioning and preparation as another challenge to her team's success. "I was concerned about our height and conditioning. They never conditioned before basketball season. I knew there were a lot of things they weren't used to doing. They didn't do a lot of scouting reports. There were no files ever shown to the girls." Bynum has changed that. "I was excited because I could say this is how you are supposed to do it. This is the scouting report on the opponent and we are going to watch film on that opponent. You're going

to run the other team's offense, and we're going to practice against it. We're going to eat the pregame meal together. Here's what we should eat and what we shouldn't. I've got to teach a great deal." Bynum feels the preparation and the fact that she has now played every conference opponent at least once has helped the team.

Team attitude has also been a challenge to the first year coach, and she feels off the court activities have been a positive. "I think it is very important to have other bonds between the players besides at practice. They see each other at practice for two hours a day or at a game. We have had cookouts away from school. We played whiffle ball one day at practice for an hour. We had been beaten and our heads were in the tank." According to Bynum, activities like this as well as Mary Ann Merritt (junior center) singing the national anthem at home games and Yolanda Oliver (senior guard) running for homecoming queen are important because they allow other relationships to transfer onto the court. She feels the friendships that have developed off the court between the players has helped them on the court.

Even though the team has had off the court challenges this season, has the challenge of a difficult schedule hurt or helped the Lady Pirates? The first year coach admitted she had early season concerns. Bynum said: "To be honest, I was scared. We returned two starters who hadn't played much. Two of the kids who are starters have played extremely well for us. They did not play much last year. I was worried about our leadership and our ability to survive a schedule like this because you can upset some teams early and it can be an extreme motivator; but if you get beat consistently, it can destroy you. You want to be on top of your game psychologically when your conference season starts."

Proof of this came in a game at Georgia Southern in which the Lady Pirates lost by 50. Bynum said, "Playing Georgia Southern before our first (conference) game taught us you never know what is going to happen. Whether you can bounce back or start hearing footsteps or looking over your

shoulder. I think we have survived it (the GSU game), and we're stronger because of it. We looked at our conference stats recently. We took away our non-conference games (GSU, Mars Hill, Valdosta State, etc.) and looked at our stats in the conference. We are winning every category but free throw shooting." Because the team is even with everybody else in the conference, Bynum feels the difficult schedule has helped team despite the early season concerns and the GSU game.

Despite a 7-13 record (as of February 8), Bynum feels the Lady Pirates have had some positive results from several players. Among them are seniors Nicole Smith, Debra Morrell, and Yolanda Oliver. According to Bynum, Smith has had a tough competitive spirit all season. "She had a stress fracture last year, and it still has not healed. It (the injury) bothered her through volleyball season, and it still bothers her. Seldom a practice goes by where she doesn't have to leave the floor and ice it. So she is playing with pain, and she is such a competitor, she won't quit." Morrell, according to Bynum, has played well despite not playing much the last three years including one season she missed due to a knee injury. "She is leading the league in three-point shots by a wide margin. She is a tremendous leader and one of the more driven people on the team." In Oliver, Bynum has a player who is among the all time leaders in seven different categories (including tops in assists and steals). About Oliver, Bynum states, "we have the third leading scorer and the assist leader in Yo. She has been extremely consistent with her scoring."

As the season winds down, Bynum has assessed the team's weaknesses and what areas have to be filled in order to achieve her goal of a competitive basketball program. She feels the biggest weakness is ball-handling. "This league is pretty athletic" Bynum believes. "The best player on each team more often than not is a guard. The guard makes things go. A team puts pressure on us and makes it difficult to have an

offense. Another area of concern is shooting. "Our shooting isn't great" Bynum continued. "We have to take high percentage shots. A lot of teams can out athletic you. We can't do that. We have to use our screens and be very disciplined within our offense to get good shots because we are not a very good shooting team." Bynum also cites her bench as a area that has to be addressed. "We lack a little from our bench. They are capable, but by being freshmen, we haven't got the consistent help from them." As the season ends, Bynum believes, she will see what the bench is capable of.

As she attempts to fill the team's needs through recruiting, Bynum believes the city of Savannah and the ASC campus can help attract top players. Bynum stated "this was the only reason I left Clinch Valley. Clinch Valley was in a small town where the two stoplights start flashing yellow at 9:00. There wasn't a lot to do. It was difficult for me to recruit good student-athletes to come to the school. I really liked Savannah. The location and playing in a new arena sold me. Both are huge recruiting tools for athletes to come in and visit." Bynum continued "you can only take a recruit within a thirty mile radius of your school. If they visit this city, within a thirty mile radius there is Tybee Island and downtown." Bynum is hopeful she can sell the geographical location of Savannah and the campus to prospective recruits.

As the season is coming to a end, Bynum is hopeful the team can reach its goal if they work in a certain direction. "What I have told them is we have to be at the top of our game psychologically and physically on February 25 (the final regular season game at Lander). I asked them what you receive for winning the regular season. Nobody could answer. I said that is why you don't get anything. You get a good draw in the tournament only. We are blooming a little late, but I think we will get there. As for wins and losses, that is irrelevant at this point. It is a matter of this team improving and reaching its full potential by the end of February."

## 3-on-3 Tourney Results

Many of us like to start a three on three basketball game when we have nothing do. On Monday, February 6 and Tuesday, February 7, eight teams got together for the Schick Super Hoops tournament that was held in the ASC gym. The tournament, cosponsored by Schick, Starter, and the National Basketball Association, is at colleges around the country with the winners going to a regional tournament. The winner of the ASC tournament would go to regional held at Georgia State University.

The first night of the single elimination event began with a game being played on each side of the court in two, eight minute

halves. In the first games a team composed of Todd Roberson, Heath Meguiar, Steve Rushing and Greg Murray (Raiders) defeated the team of Joe LeVan, Robert Donaldson and Chris Parys 30-19. In the other game the team of Nat Roper, Darren Harrison, Darryl McCann and Nate Harvey (Noteworthies) defeated the team of Todd Meegan, Travis Webb and Jason Crosby 30-28 in overtime.

In the next session the team of Frank Robinson, Yancey Jallah, Wayman Dean and Dewitt Fisher (All-Stars) won their game with a 47-46 overtime win. They advanced to meet the team of Mike Padgett, Paul Berry, Wallace Smith and Torrey Wilkerson

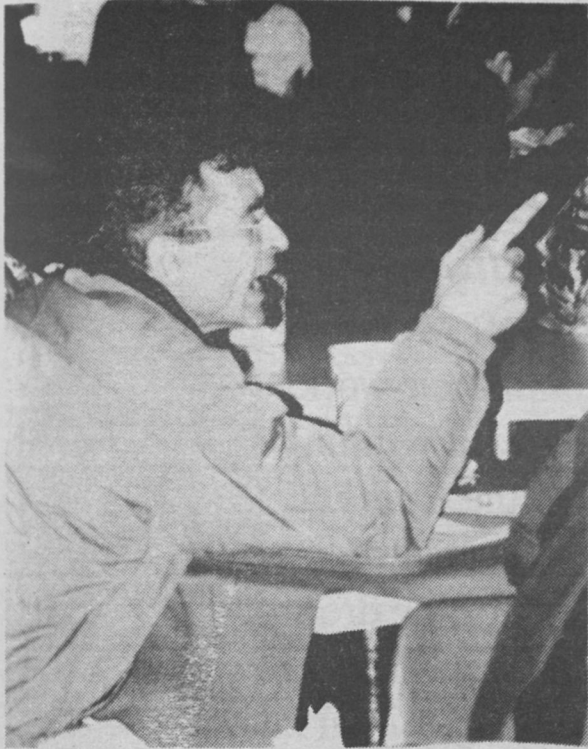
(Wolverines) who won their game 44-23.

In the semi finals, the Raiders ran out to a 27-8 halftime lead enroute to a 42-31 win over the Noteworthies. The Raiders advanced to the finals against the All-Stars. The All-Stars moved on with a 34-24 victory.

The championship game was very physical. When all was said and done, however, the All-Stars won a tight 25-22 game. The All-Stars move on the regional tournament which will begin February 11. The team is hopeful of advancing through the regional when the eventual finalists will meet at an NBA arena in March.



# Student Spectacle Thinks Comedian is Number 1!

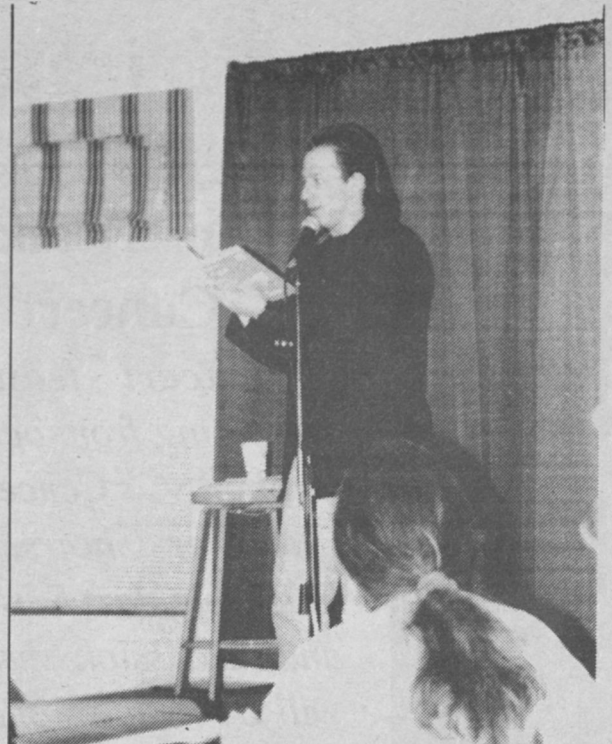


*Student Jack Rosenthal doesn't get the joke*

Comedians are used to hecklers, but when Jewish audience member and student Jack Rosenthal took offense at Peter Berman's comic interpretation of a moronic Klu Klux Klan member who thought that Hitler's followers were waving and saying, "Hi, Hilter!", things started to get ugly. Students stared nervously as Rosenthal shouted, "That's not funny! Hitler was a murderer!" and stormed violently toward the stage shaking his finger at Berman and scattering students who had visions of a mad bomber on the loose.

"It's time for me to get out of here!", said one woman, who felt like she had been transplanted onto a bad episode of *Geraldo*.

Berman explained to Rosenthal that he, too, was Jewish and that he thought the joke was funny, but if Rosenthal would tell him exactly what he found offensive, he would be willing to discuss it. At this, Rosenthal threw up his arms and exited the building, leaving everyone feeling uneasy, most of all Berman, who spent a good deal of time trying to figure the man out. Berman said that Rosenthal must have been sleeping through the first half of the joke, woke up to hear "Hi, Hitler" and exploded in wrath. "Well, we all learned a lesson here today. People hear only what they want to hear and take things out of context. If the man would have discussed his problem with me, I might have been able to learn something, but all he could do was shout, and no one learned anything." Berman warned students not to be lunatics like the man, but that if they had problems to talk sensibly to someone; otherwise you'd just make yourself look stupid and not enlighten anyone. He then resumed his comedy act but kept looking out the corner of his eye everytime someone walked in the door. Once he even asked, "Are you sure that guy wasn't a disgruntled postal worker?"



*Comedian Peter Berman, heckler handler extraordinaire*

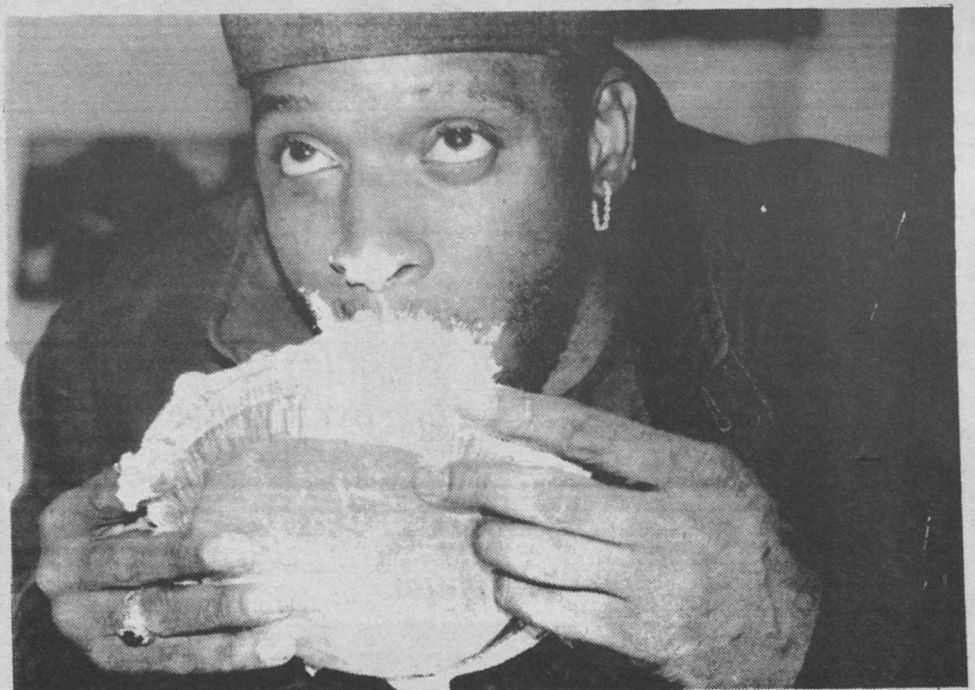
## 1995 Homecoming Queen Crowned



### *Can You Guess Which One ?*

Cristen West (left) was crowned the 1995 Homecoming Queen at Saturday's Homecoming Basketball game between the Pirates and Francis Marion. She was sponsored by the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

In other Homecoming news, some guy eats a whole chocolate pie.





# Attention ASC!

## Americana Concert

*A concert featuring everything from opera to jazz by ASC's Concert and Chamber Choirs, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Percussion Ensemble will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 8:00pm at the Fine Arts Auditorium.*

**Congratulations Brian Green and Nicole Smith!**  
After a tough road-loss to the FMU basketball team, ASC Senior Brian Green asked, on bended knee, woman's basketball star Nicole Smith to marry him, and Nicole said yes. The two have not set a date, but they intend to wait until after graduation.

## Community Band Concert

*William Keith directs the ASC Community Band in a lively collection of modern-American works on Tuesday, February 21, 8:00pm at the Fine Arts Auditorium.*

## Submit to the *Calliope*

Students, Faculty and Staff Members are encouraged to submit their works to ASC's award-winning literary magazine, the *Calliope*. Offerings should be deposited, by **March 30, 1995** in any of the drop-boxes around the campus: Writing Center, Fine Arts Building, Library, Cafeteria, and Victor Annex #5. Contact David Starnes or Dr. Martha Marinara @ 927-5210 for further information.

**LOST:** A dark denim APRON in or near the Fine Arts Building, or parking lot in front. Missing since January 24th, the apron has handprints (in paint) of my eight grandchildren and was a special gift with great sentimental value. If found or seen, please call 352-9918 or 233-6717 and leave a message.

## **SENIORS:**

**THE DEADLINE TO APPLY  
FOR GRADUATION IS  
MARCH 1ST.**



# Mardi Gras, Viennese Style

Ted Turner at the Vienna Opera Ball?

Well, it was a possibility when the Vienna city government officially invited him to this most prestigious ball of the Vienna carnival season. But guess what? Ted turned it down.

In February, nevertheless, the waltz triumphs, just as it did at the recent Vienna New Year's Day Concert, a traditional musical event of mostly waltzes composed by members of the Strauss family and performed by the Vienna Philharmonics. As always, the waltzes commanded the attention of hundreds of TV audiences all over the world.

A neurotic Vienna newspaper critic voiced his fear that because of the impact of this concert the peoples of the world may perceive the Austrians as a nation of violinists and dancers. I wish they would! What's wrong with that? Anyone who has ever floated lustily through a sparkingly lit ballroom with a competent partner, carried by the lilting sounds of an orchestral waltz, would agree that it is one of the highest forms of enchantment.

Vienna has a great ball season between New Year's Day and Ash-Wednesday. There are so many balls that one could easily attend ten or more different events in one night. Large and small professional and social associations organize their own balls, as do neighborhood clubs and churches. Some have become legendary for their sophistication, tradition and locale, such as the Opera and the Philharmonic Ball, but also the Physicians', the Goldsmiths', the Butchers', and the Sugarbakers' Ball. Revelers can also attend the Blue Night, the Red Hearts, and the Flower Ball, a number of masked balls and the Ragpicker Ball. There is even an oddity called the Religion-Teachers' Ball.

Interestingly, during the whole ball season, dancing schools all over the city offer "brush up" waltz classes which are eagerly attended not only by the Viennese of all age groups but also by foreigners coming to town to attend one of the many balls. A Vienna newspaper's social column named as the most recent pupils a few prominent Austrian



*At what could be described as Viennese Mardi Gras, Walters glide at the City Hall Ball in Vienna, Austria*

politicians, a highly decorated Bundesheer general, an Arabian ambassador and a Secretary of State; and not to be overlooked was a contingent of 200 Frenchmen who arrived in Vienna and checked directly into one of the bigger dancing schools.

Vienna did, of course, not invent the waltz but certainly brought it to fruition. "Strauss made the waltz sing," Walter Cronkite, commentator of the New Year program, said so nicely; and indeed, Johann Strauss was instrumental in giving the city on the "Blue Danube" its dancing image and spreading the waltz fever to other parts of the world. Times have changed, alas, and many a youthful dancer today gets wrapped up in rap rather than wallows in waltz. But after seeing a cute little movie the other day, I asked myself whether the waltz could ever reconquer the United States?

In *IQ*, a film with Meg Ryan, Tim

Robbins, and Walter Matthau, the young leading couple becomes romantically inclined as a Viennese waltz emerges from a Wurlitzer in a small diner. As the Victoria Philharmonic Orchestra disbursts the grand sounds of the "Artist's Life" Waltz by Johann Strauss, Meg and Tim begin to turn slowly to the spirited three-quarter rhythm, and as they give themselves up to the sweet sound-cloud of the waltz they gaze into each others' eyes, alerted and attuned to this magic moment.

Wouldn't it be nice if everybody had a waltz in his or her life . . . ?

Many years ago, my husband and I, returning from Italy to the United States on an American cruise ship, attended a "Waltz Night," in which the resident dance instructor couple was to present their own showmanship. Watching their graceful dancing I sentimentally recalled my own "waltz memories" and wished to be able to dance with this elegant male host who led his partner so skillfully across the floor. At the end of the demonstration the couple announced that the lady would now dance with every gentleman present, the male dancer would then do so with each female guest, and at the end a prize would be awarded to the best female and best male dancer. Well, there was my chance! But while I watched the American men dance with relaxed amusement, my husband seemed to become increasingly uncomfortable and fidgety. Not that he had anything to worry about, I thought; I had already "trained" him in this art.

But just before the lady finished with the man before him—she had methodically gone up the row of tables at which individual couples were sitting; and we

were the last one—my husband excused himself to me and hurriedly left the room. I was disappointed, of course, but anticipated nevertheless happily my upcoming turn with the male host. How glad would the waltzer be once he realized he had a "Vienna-trained" waltzee on his hand! But when he came up to our table he noticed that I was sitting there alone. At that time, and under the circumstances, I guess, it was considered improper to ask an unaccompanied lady to dance; and so, after a split second of hesitation, he passed me by.

I wasn't only mad, but I blamed it all on my husband who had so cowardly avoided his challenge. Just as the hosts prepared to announce the winners of the contest, the door opened and my husband reentered. Somehow this didn't escape the lady dancer's eyes, because she turned to the door and called out over the length of the ball room: "Here is a gentleman I haven't danced with yet!" And she made a bee-line toward him, took him by the sleeve and schlepped him onto the dance floor. Ha!

There, he did a neat enough job, but I never got to dance with the "master." Later that evening, nevertheless, we imbibed the contents of a bottle of champagne, the prize my husband had ever so reluctantly won.

There will be many "waltz" or "ball-stories" happening between now and the official end of the carnival season, Shrove Tuesday, on February 28, 1995. Like Ted, I will not be at the Opera Ball, but considering alternatives, I tell myself that, actually, it's nice to be anywhere.

— Aurelia Roth



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## Reviews

### *Debt of Honor*

Tom Clancy  
G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1994  
\$25.95

*Debt of Honor*, Tom Clancy's latest novel (already on the New York Times top-ten best-sellers list), is the sixth installment in the adventures of his mega-popular hero Jack Ryan. For those among you who thought it impossible for Clancy to top his nuclear bomb at the Superbowl scenario in the last Ryan-centered epic, *The Sum of All Fears*, rest easy, does so in grand fashion.

Once again the sky is falling, and once again Ryan has to field the pieces. This time Ryan has been drafted from his position in the private sector to become National Security Advisor to the newly elected president. No sooner is he ensconced in office than he is faced with a hostile Indian Navy looking to annex Sri Lanka for some lebensraum, a stock market disaster (engineered by some sly Japanese), and an underhanded attack on the American Pacific Fleet by Dai Nippon. All of this is orchestrated by the Japanese in an effort to ensure her position in the world economy and to vault her into the rank of world superpower. Meanwhile, pay close attention to the two primary subplots: one concerning the vice-president, whose definition of seduction oftentimes strays over the border into rape and the other involving an extremely patriotic Japanese Airlines pilot named Sato.

Clancy's two strengths, a firm grasp of modern military technology and an uncanny ability to render complex subjects (i.e., his synopsis of the Crash of '29) into a quickly comprehensive and interesting discourse, are both very much in evidence here. Very few writers can compare with his ability to place a reader directly into the center of contemporary martial conflicts, be they pitched "dogfights" between fighter jets that are never within visual range of one another or deadly submarine duels far beneath the ocean's surface. Typically, Clancy's plotting is superb, weaving many disparate strands into a coherent, exciting whole. Alas, another Clancy trademark is in evidence: one dimensional characters who exchange wooden dialogue. Fortunately, that deficiency is not a major detriment to novels of this species, and Clancy's narrative talents far exceed his faults.

## "Blues" History Month

With February we have basketball fever, Valentine's Day, lingering colds, mid terms, and last but not least, Black History Month. What, you might ask, would a pre-middle aged caucasian from a bleach-white town in rural Ohio care about Black History Month? Let me tell you: growing up, Black History Month didn't register a whole bunch, if at all. My friends and I were too busy hanging out, copping the proverbial buzz, and listening to good old rock and roll. Ah yes, Led Zeppelin, Cream, Aerosmith (oops, they're still around). But wait, as I grew older, and some brain cells regenerated, I realized

that these very white rock and roll musicians, had some very black history-like roots.

On Led Zeppelin's first album (that is a wax-like non-compact disc that your stereo would play when your eight track was broken) two songs were written by the late great Willie Dixon: "You Shook Me" and "I Can't Quit You Babe." "Whole Lotta Love", a major hit from the same album, was a reworking (i.e. uncredited ripoff) of Muddy Waters's 1962 tune "You Need Love". Now wait a minute, if I dig Led Zeppelin, Eric Clapton, etc. and they dig Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, etc. does that mean I can dig their music as well?

*continued from page 2*

requisite to a course is only taught at certain times and you miss taking it, then getting into the other courses is impossible and you waste valuable time."

Kelly can see that some students may be expecting too much, but feels that advisement should be more than a 30 second 'Hi and Goodbye' autograph-signing session and that students well into their majors still need to confer with their advisor on a regular basis. She also believes that declared majors are better off receiving advisement from the same professor and not just going to whomever is available.

Dr. Carol Andrews and Rae Ritzel have been working on an advisement manual for the past two quarters for faculty advisors. The manual will emphasize such criteria as knowledge of curricular requirements and college policies, advisor availability, and advisor acquaintance with other advisory and support services on campus. The manual en-

courages department heads to take a more active role in departmental advising by making advisement workshops mandatory. It also recommends checking advisement files to see that they are current and up to date, calls for departmental evaluation on advising from both students and faculty, and states a need to create a reward/incentive program for advisors.

Lastly, the manual will recommend that the Registrar's Office create a contract, other than the advisement notice, between the advisor and student to be kept in the student's advisement file and be checked periodically by the department head. This contract would be signed and dated by both the student and advisor at each time of advisement/registration.

In some departments, on-line registration is available to those who are advised. This means you can be advised, walk down the hall, and register all within a 15 minute time frame; or you can not be advised and wait up to two or more hours in a long line,

### *Dixie City Jam*

James Lee Burke  
Hypernum Press, 1994  
\$22.95

Some inner demon claws its way through the entrails of every character in *Dixie City Jam*. This is the thirteenth novel written by Edgar-awarding winning, Louisiana native James Lee Burke. Every page drips machismo and the people that inhabit this bleak New Orleans landscape are walking archetypes of the adage: "He'd kill you just as soon as look at you." This universe is populated by brutal men who are no strangers to that old spook with scythe-breath and who are only too happy to introduce him to some new dance partners. Even minor characters are badasses in this world, and there is frequent reference to their participation in some of the bloodier battles fought in our last three wars (Saipan, Chosin Reservoir). It is these characters, however, that make the book so damn good. Burke can establish a believable identity with a short paragraph and two or three seemingly throwaway lines of dialogue.

At the center of this universe is New Iberian police detective Dave Robicheaux; the story revolves around his discovery of a sunken Nazi submarine in the Gulf of Mexico, and the disastrous consequences this has on his family and friends. Floating just above the bottom of the alluvial fan of the Mississippi river, the sub is the intense object of interest of: a terminally ill Irish gangster, a Jewish politico, and a fanatic neo-nazi sect led by one of the more interesting psychos in recent literature.

But plot isn't the overriding concern here. Burkes' gift is threefold: characterization, dialogue, and a lyrical prose style that must be the envy of every other writer in the genre. When Robicheaux looks at the face of a dying man he sees there "the knowledge that he had entered a piece of psychological moonscape on which there was no traveling companion." In Burkes hands an M-16 rifle becomes: "(a) Colt Industries urban-Americana meatcutter." No less an authority than Elmore Leonard, widely recognized as the master of dialogue, calling it "quirky, raunchy,... a delight." Ultimately it is the quirky, raunchy people who reside in this hard-boiled environment who draw you into Burke's universe and make your stay so enjoyable. The book is not recommended for those who are reality-phobic.

— Books Reviewed by L.D. Lorren

Damn straight, Blues is boss!

Now back to the future. Eric Clapton's new release, "From The Cradle", is his tribute to the blues. It is jam (pun intended) packed with covers, both popular and obscure, from several blues artists. If Clapton is willing to use an entire record to pay homage to those who birthed and nurtured the blues, can't you make the effort to listen to their original cuts? You shouldn't limit yourself to Clapton, Stevie Ray Vaughn, or Johnny Winter. If you love blues music check out some of the "other" blues artists around. For example, Buddy Guy's last three CD's: "Damn Right I Got the Blues", "Feels Like Rain", and his new one "Slippin In" are all

excellent! There is so much to this vital art form to be enjoyed; don't let yourself miss out. Just because the music industry has placed white blues artists at the fore doesn't mean that you have to ignore the rich heritage brought to the blues by black artists.

That sentiment brings us to the bigger picture. Black artists have added much to our rich culture. Black History Month is an appropriate time to take some time and gain some appreciation for their contributions. I bet we would learn that, ultimately, music transcends race. It belongs to all of us, and it gives us each something different.

— J. Dion Couch

only to discover your classes have already been filled.

Filled classes was one of the many problems faced by students. They also expressed concerns about departmental advisors not being available when needed, and they felt they were treated like an object in an assembly line and rather as an individual. Numerous students complained of confusing departmental policies that are not universal throughout the entire campus. One woman who had switched majors in her junior year found that the core courses required for her previous major did not match up with the core courses for the new major and that she would have to spend an extra year at school to meet the requirements for graduation.

A number of students said that they had never been informed and had never been given any information about advisement alternatives. One freshman had been at ASC for two quarters and had not yet been advised. Other freshmen who were advised had been given misinformation by people within the de-

partment. One woman said that her advisor had steered her to take Math 99, which she failed twice. Only then was she informed to take Math 98. "I should have taken Math 98 in the first place, but my advisor said I didn't need to." Another student claimed to have similar problems after taking the CPE and being sent back and forth to different instructors who were not able to answer her questions and sent her elsewhere. "Everyone needs to get together," she said. "The people in one department don't seem to know what is going on in another and the students get shuffled around and treated as if it is their fault. They are supposed to be there to help us not make us more confused than we already are."

It is hoped that the proposed advisement manual will help to eliminate some of the problems students and advisors now find themselves up against. As you find yourself struggling with advisement and registration this week, just remember you are not alone, and if Alicia Kelly has her way, the eyes of the uninformed will soon be opened.



## Film Reviews *by Robert Pickens*

# One Has the Message; the Other Has the Music

### Higher Learning

No one is too enlightened or unbiased for *Higher Learning*. No one. Not black women, white men, elderly Iranians, or middle-aged Indian eunuchs. And while the material in *Higher Learning* is particularly graphic, kids should probably watch as well. We can all learn from this film or unlearn as the case may be. Director John Singleton chooses a college campus as his setting, but the issues addressed are as universal as love and hate themselves.

**Fastforward:** We see all the facets of a big university boiled down into extreme stereotypes. Malik, the young, black "stud" brought in to run for the mostly white Columbus University track team, meets the militant and well-read Mr. White (seriously) who encourages him to be true to his African heritage. Kristen is the lily-white, small town girl who, confused by a date rape, curiously flirts with becoming a lesbian. Later, she naively plans a peace festival despite her fractured surroundings. Meanwhile, Ramy, the dorky engineering student tired of the abuse he takes from his black roommates, retaliates by joining a group of skin heads. And lots, lots more.

*Higher Learning* is an angry film. It's mad about the victimization of women, blacks, and whites, as well as the oppressive atmosphere of supposedly liberal

environments. It is a screaming, electric guitar string poised to snap. Nazis rant obscenities directly at the theater audience, cops beat Malik beneath pictures of Presidents Washington and Jefferson, and drunk frat boys cheer their half-clad brother as he chases his rape victim out the door. On second thought leave the kids at home.

### We can all "unlearn" from this film

But *Higher Learning* doesn't leave us in this dazed and depressing war scene. Instead, it vividly portrays the problem, so the solution will be taken more seriously. The film poignantly illustrates its most interesting line, a quote from Frederick Douglass: "There can be no progress without a struggle." So, after the struggle, Singleton offers a subtle example of progress: a noble, purgative, epiphantic handshake. A handshake that assures us that we can rebuild after the storm. One handshake.

Ultimately, though, the film leaves us where we started — with a shot of the American flag. Not the African-American flag, not the Anglo-American flag, but the flag that unites us all as a nation of unique parts. Pay whatever they ask, and see this movie twice.

### Immortal Beloved

With a soundtrack by Ludwig von Beethoven, how bad can any movie be? As a matter of fact, the makers of *Last Action Hero* might have recovered some of their losses if they had just played part of his Fifth Symphony during one of the chase scenes. So, despite its disjointed script, *Immortal Beloved* benefits immeasurably by a score that even the most alternative of music lovers will enjoy. And while you may not care too much who the immortal beloved is, you should enjoy Gary Oldman's Beethoven and the overall look of 18th-and-19th-century Europe.

**Fastforward:** Beethoven's secretary is seeking the immortal beloved mentioned as the benefactor of the maestro's estate. One by one, he questions the various women in Beethoven's life, and one by one we are given a coincidentally chronological account of the deaf composer's life.

*Immortal Beloved* hides under the pretense of a detective story, and in that respect it fails. There's no crime to speak of, no handful of shady, ambiguous characters, no motives, or clever investigators. You quickly get the idea that it's just a matter of time before secretary stumbles across the right woman. And whereas Agatha Christy gives you clues the whole time that you're not bright enough to decipher, *Immortal Beloved* only tells you what it wants you to know.

Indeed, the whole "mystery" would take about five minutes to figure out if they had just read the whole note addressed to you-know-who. No, this is not a whodunit.

What it is is the biography of an irritable, passionate genius who created some of the world's most beautiful sounds. His abrasiveness becomes apparent when he scoffs at the grandiose idea that we listen to music to elevate the soul. Instead, he says, we listen to music to get into the mind of the composer. He is so egomaniacal, in fact, that he refuses to play, stating that he is no monkey relegated to perform for the tone deaf aristocracy. I don't know if Beethoven was so temperamental, but Oldman makes the portrayal believable.

### With a soundtrack by Beethoven, how bad could the movie be?

Apparently, Beethoven did bequeath his estate to a mysterious lover, but no one has figured out who it was, so music enthusiasts beware: poetic license is taken mercilessly.

*Immortal Beloved* is worth full price if only for the knock-you-out-of-your-seat "Ode to Joy" scene. In it, the audience gets the idea that despite the maestro's objection, music like this can elevate the soul.

## Lost in the Video Store ?

The Super Bowl is over, and the wrong teams were in it. The NBA playoffs, the real season, are months away. And just when I started to like baseball, well, you know that story. It's time to turn to the movies to make it all better, so here's a short list of quality sport films. A theme they all share is relieving: sports isn't about business; it's about games.

### The Sandlot

This video should be divided into two parts: the adult part and the kiddy part. Fortunately, the adult part or first hour is just good enough to validate the rest of a rather silly, childish ending. The sandlot is a hidden sand garden where middle school boys go every day to practice the art of baseball. These boys are good at being guys from their overt flirting with out-of-reach-girls to their outlandish posturing and primping. And, of course, they're great at what they live for—baseball. Despite how quickly the video breaks down at the end, *The Sandlot* paints a pure picture of the basic goodness inherent in what has become a rather spoiled sport. A great video for kids and a pretty good one for adults.

### Bull Durham

Kevin Costner plays Crash Davis, the ex-big leaguer returned to the minor leagues to coach the promising young pitcher Tim

"Nuke" Robbins. This relationship marks the end of Davis's career and the beginning of Robbins's; consequently, the video plays on latent emotions. For instance, an especially powerful scene involves Davis revealing his own past by discussing the incremental difference between hitting .250 and .300 — "Just one dead quail a week and you're playing in Yankee Stadium." Costner creates a person in scenes like this rather than just a baseball hero. Don't worry, though, there's sex, cussin', and baseball pranks too. Again, like *The Sandlot*, Bull Durham creates a baseball lifestyle outside of the glamorous world of "the show."

### Everybody's All-American

Gavin Grey was a football hero in high school, he became the "Gray Ghost" in college, he married a beauty queen, and he helped create the National Football League. He was, indeed, everybody's all-American. This video highlights his athletic success and, equally important, his life after football as he tries to keep his marriage together and his competitive drive in check. It spans three decades and offers insight into the real effects of a life in the national spotlight. Like *Bull Durham*, the characters in *Everybody's All-American* competently take over when the unreal glory of sports starts to glare. Football fanatics and those less enchanted will enjoy this video.

## Don't Forget Studio A !

*"I have very poor and unhappy brains for drinking: I could well wish courtesy would invent some other custom of entertainment."*

— William Shakespeare

Cry in your ale no longer,  
Billy Boy — Studio A and  
the wonders of cinematic majesty  
have come to your rescue!

playing these days at Studio A:

*Let's Do It Again*

*The Inkwell*

*The Professional*



# The Back Page

## TRIVIA

- 1) Who is the god of thunder and war in Norse mythology?
- 2) What is the positive electrode of a battery called?
- 3) What are the three Alpine skiing events?
- 4) What actress was known as Divine Sarah?
- 5) Whose cow was considered to have started the Chicago Fire of 1871?
- 6) What Illinois town was Superman's boyhood home?
- 7) What Shakespearean play featured Shylock?
- 8) What is the principal river of Ireland?
- 9) Who painted *The Artist's Mother*?
- 10) What is the name of a baseball hit that falls between the infield and the outfield?
- 11) What TV series changed the names to protect the innocent?
- 12) What English word comes from the Old French *covrefeu*, meaning *cover fire*?
- 13) What part of the eye continues to grow throughout a person's life?
- 14) What country administers Greenland?
- 15) What state contains the geographic center of the United States?
- 16) Who was the first U.S. president to travel in a car, plane, and submarine?
- 17) Who is M's secretary?
- 18) What Poker hand comprises three of a kind and a pair?
- 19) What country lifted a ban on Aristotle, Shakespeare, and Dickens on 11 February 1978?
- 20) What is the claim to fame of Aleksei Leonov?
- 21) What is the model name and number of the spacecraft's computer in *2001: A Space Odyssey*?
- 22) What was the color of Christ's hair in St. John's vision?
- 23) Who was known as *The Prince of Light*?
- 24) What team has lost the most Superbowls?
- 25) Which of the five senses are you most likely to lose when hit by lightning?

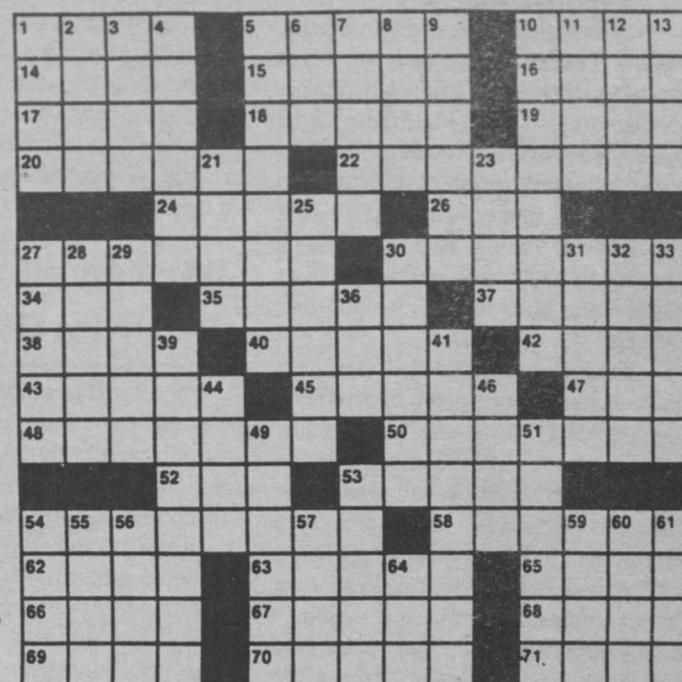
## Answers

1) Thor, 2) anode, 3) downhill, giant slalom, slalom, 4) Sarah Bernhardt, 5) Mrs. O'Leary's, 6) Smallville, 7) *The Merchant of Venice*, 8) Shannon, 9) James Whistler, 10) Texas Leaguer, 11) *Dragnet*, 12) cuffed, 13) the lens, 14) Denmark, 15) South Dakota, 16) Theodore Roosevelt, 17) Miss Moneybags, 18) a full house, 19) China, 20) he took the first walk in space, 21) HAL 9000, 22) white, 23) Thomas Alva Edison, 24) Minnesota Vikings, 25) hearing

## THE Crossword

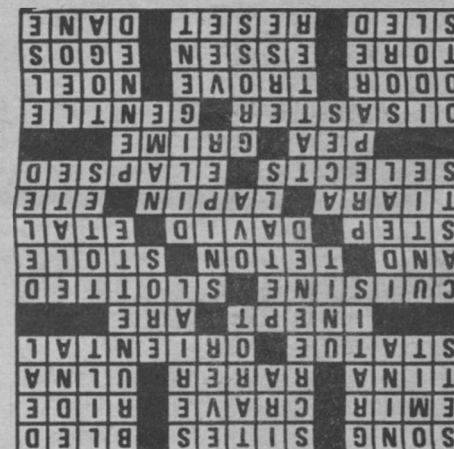
- ACROSS
- 1 Ballad
  - 5 Locations
  - 10 Extorted money from
  - 14 Mideast ruler
  - 15 Yearn
  - 16 Travel
  - 17 Turner or Louise
  - 18 More unusual
  - 19 Arm bone
  - 20 Stone image
  - 22 Asian
  - 24 Clumsy
  - 26 "You — There"
  - 27 Manner of preparing food
  - 30 Having openings
  - 34 Connective
  - 35 Range of the Rockies
  - 37 Shawl
  - 38 Phase
  - 40 Letterman of TV
  - 42 And others: Lat. abbr.
  - 43 Diadem
  - 45 Hare's hair?
  - 47 Summer, in Paris
  - 48 Makes a choice
  - 50 Passed, as time
  - 52 Pod dweller
  - 53 Dirt
  - 54 Calamity
  - 58 Mild
  - 62 Aroma
  - 63 Treasure —
  - 65 Holiday word
  - 66 Ripped
  - 67 Ger. city
  - 68 Freudian terms
  - 69 Winter vehicle
  - 70 Put in place again
  - 71 Copenhagen resident

- DOWN
- 1 Matched collections
  - 2 Leave out
  - 3 Columbus' ship
  - 4 Free
  - 5 Covered with mesh
  - 6 Bank account initials
  - 7 Mystic card
  - 8 At any time
  - 9 Story in episodes
  - 10 Dark-haired
  - 11 Tune
  - 12 Author Ferber
  - 13 Business transaction
  - 21 Separate entity
  - 23 God of love
  - 25 Flower leaves
  - 27 Throws
  - 28 Release
  - 29 Paragon
  - 30 Hidden marksman
  - 31 Carry-alls
  - 32 Make jubilant
  - 33 Struck out
  - 36 Eggs
  - 39 Made ready
  - 41 Hard-working
  - 44 Experts
  - 46 Title



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## ANSWERS



- 49 Shred  
51 Wrote  
53 12 dozen  
54 Specks  
55 One to look up to  
56 Hurting  
57 Gaelic  
59 Roman garb  
60 Author Uris  
61 Otherwise  
64 Neckline style

## The Lowe-down on Service:

As a veteran of the service industry, I can tell you one thing — it's not an easy business to be in. You learn things. For example, people are weird about their food. Another example, ladies who are a size 14 try to fit in size 10 clothes. No way. I think that seeing how someone acts in settings like stores or restaurants gives a pretty clear indication of what type of person they are.

Here's a scenario: a woman walks into a store, looks through a rack, and pulls out an item. Nope, doesn't like it. Tosses on top of the rack. Pretends not to notice when it falls on the floor. Come on! Can you imagine what this woman's house looks like?!

Scenario #2: A couple comes into a restaurant. They are obviously on a first date. Everything goes well. The bill comes and the man puts the tab money plus a generous tip on the table. When the woman gets up to go to the restroom, the man takes half the tip back and goes to wait for her. Believe me, it happens. Shame, cheapstakes!

Scenario #3: A person pulls up to a drive-thru at a fast-food restaurant. At the "Hi! May I take your order?" prompt, the response is usually along the lines of, "Uh. Yeah... Gimme a... wait, ok... a cheeseburger, yeah... Oh! No onions, ok?" When asked if they want anything else and they tell you no, it's just so cute when

they pull up to the widow and say, "Oh, uh, could I add a coke, too?" Su-u-re, no problem.

Ok, occasionally there have been people I've come across who have it together. Those who demand, receive, and actually tip for great service. Those who know exactly what they want when they come into a store/restaurant. However, I'd like to point out that these wonderful competent people are few and far in between. So to the rest of you... get a clue!

— Bonnie Lowe

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